

Charles Atlas—one person can stop anything. They have the right to do that. We understand that. But procedurally that is where we are now. Hopefully, we can work our way through this and have some debate on this detainee matter and move on to the fence bill, hopefully work something out on that, and put us on a glidepath to completing the work of the body, as the majority wants to do, in the next couple of days.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, will the Senator yield on that point for a couple of moments?

Mr. REID. Of course.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I commend the two leaders for trying to work out these issues. Over the years, I have seen leaders try to do it at the end of a session. I don't consider myself a Charles Atlas, but I do consider myself a U.S. Senator. I have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Some of us have sat in this Chamber and in committee for 5 years while what was being done in detaining the prisoners violated our Constitution and our traditions in the United States. Seven of the nine Members of the Supreme Court are Republicans, incidentally, and have said the same thing in the Hamdan decision.

We tried for 5 years to get the administration to listen to us, to tell us there are ways we could have worked this out so the United States would follow its own laws, would follow its own Constitution, would follow the ideals on which this country was founded, and give that kind of example, a shining light to the rest of the world. And now suddenly the administration, after meeting behind closed doors, predominantly just with the Republicans, says: Here, in 2 hours' time, we have a solution; accept it. I have some problems with that. I will discuss this with the leaders.

As I said, I don't stand here as Charles Atlas, but I stand here as a U.S. Senator with my rights and to protect the rights of Americans.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reclaiming the floor for just a moment, I say to my friend from Vermont, I consider him a Charles Atlas today and any time I have ever served with him in the Senate. He is one of the most senior Members in the Senate. He is the person the Democrats have designated to be the arbiter of issues that go on in the Judiciary Committee, the busiest committee in the Senate.

I also say to my friend that he is not only a U.S. Senator but a very good one, and I look forward to working with him to work through this issue, and with other members of the committee, as I mentioned, not in name, but there are others I need to work with on the Judiciary Committee.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will continue our discussions. The goal will be to make sure Senators do have the

opportunity to debate and amend this bill. We are just trying to put together an agreement to do that. If not, we will have the cloture vote and still have that debate and that opportunity as we go forward.

NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to comment briefly on another issue, the National Competitiveness Investment Act of 2006, a bill that was introduced yesterday with bipartisan sponsorship—myself and Senator REID—a bill that focuses on our global competitiveness by focusing on education, by focusing on the resources we should be investing right here at home to make sure we are globally competitive with nations such as China and India. If we don't act, our Nation is going to lose our competitive edge.

The United States today has the strongest scientific and technological enterprise in the world, including the best universities and the best corporations investing in research. But there is growing evidence and recognition that our educational system is failing to equip our young people and older people today to compete in this increasingly global economy. We are failing in the very areas that have in the past underpinned our strength, in areas such as mathematics, science, and engineering.

We are going to have to invest in the future in those specific areas if we are going to preserve our competitive edge, what has made this country great, as we have competed with other nations around the world. We are in a 21st century global economy which depends on mathematics, science, and technology. Those are the foundations. They are the engine to create that economic security for the next generation.

Two years ago, the Senate Energy Committee asked the National Academies to identify policies that would enable the United States to successfully compete and prosper. The National Competitiveness Investment Act of 2006, a bipartisan bill we introduced yesterday, incorporates the recommendations made by the National Academies and a number of other very similar studies that have been produced over the last 2 to 3 years.

The bill reflects the bipartisan leadership of many Senators, including those of the three major Senate committees responsible—Energy, Commerce, and the HELP Committee.

In these few moments, I wish to comment on what this bill does because it is important for people to understand how we invest and where we invest to improve that global competitiveness in this 21st century economy.

The bill doubles our investment for basic Federal research over the next 5 years at the National Science Foundation and increases investment for basic research at NASA and other science-related agencies.

It creates a new teachers institute to improve teaching techniques—how we teach math and science—focusing on education, on teachers who are responsible for putting forth that knowledge.

It creates a DARPA-modeled advanced research projects agency at the Department of Energy dedicated to the goal of increasing innovation and competitiveness breakthroughs in technology.

It expands scholarship programs that are aimed to recruit and train math and science teachers—teachers who really need to focus on the K-12 area.

It encourages more students, more high school students, to take advanced placement courses and enter the international baccalaureate programs.

It will take an increased investment. Over the next 5 years, our economy will exceed \$76 trillion—\$76 trillion is how big our economy will grow. A 1-percent investment for the future is really a small price to pay for that continued security and leadership in the world.

I did not have the opportunity to speak to this bill yesterday when it was introduced. I encourage our colleagues to join the bipartisan leadership—again, myself and Senator REID who are sponsors of this legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

RETIRING FROM THE SENATE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, even a diehard Red Sox fan has to give the devil his due. Probably the most moving moment in the history of baseball was when longtime New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig walked on the field to accept the tribute of his fans and teammates. On Independence Day in 1939, he told the crowd at Yankee Stadium that he considered himself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth.

I consider myself pretty lucky, too. I was elected to the House of Representatives in 1974. That was not the best year to be a Republican candidate. Out of an enormous freshman class of 92 new Members, which included CHRIS DODD and TOM HARKIN, only 17 of us were Republicans. And as CHUCK GRASSLEY and I walked down the aisle of the House, he with crutches and I with a neck brace, one Democrat muttered: There's two we almost got.

Time has gotten just about all of us. With my retirement and that of HENRY HYDE in the House, CHUCK GRASSLEY next year will become the last remaining Member of the Republican class of

1974, an iron horse in his own right. The silver lining for me in the electoral losses suffered by the Republicans was a chance to land senior positions on the Agriculture and Education Subcommittees that would quickly throw me into the thick of things. Throughout my career in the House, I focused on those two issues.

In 1988, with the retirement of Bob Stafford, I ran for and won a seat in the Senate. Senator Stafford was a tough act to follow. He had held just about every office in the State of Vermont and had an enormous impact on the Federal policy for education, the environment, and elsewhere. I was lucky when I got to the Senate that there were openings on both the Education and Environment Committees.

Early on, I learned what the Senate can be at its best. In 1989, Congress was in the midst of reauthorizing the Clean Air Act. Even though I was a freshman, the door was open for anyone who had the time and interest. As John Chafee, George Mitchell, and the rest of us forged a strong renewal of the Clean Air Act, I realized these were the moments I enjoyed most. I realized these were the moments I enjoyed most when smart and committed people worked together to solve tough problems and improve the lot for Americans. Every year since has provided similar moments, from rebuilding our roads to rewriting our food and drug laws.

Probably the biggest and the most rewarding challenge for me has been in the area of education. From my first year in the House when we enacted the Education of the Handicapped Act, to work that continues today on the Higher Education Act, I have tried to do my best to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to reach his or her potential.

There is plenty of work left to be done to reach this goal, and nowhere is that more true than in the District of Columbia. A decade ago, Congress stepped in to try and help the District resolve the problems plaguing its overall budget and its schools in particular. As chair of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee, I helped lead that effort. The city is to be commended for its record of fiscal responsibility in the years since, and I hope the superintendent, the new mayor, the council, and the school board will be able to make similar progress in improving the city's school system.

While Vermont has always been home, I have lived in the District of Columbia since coming to Washington. Luckily, I have never lost the ability to be moved by the sight of the Capitol dome. Its majesty struck me when I first came to Washington and it still does today. Under that dome and in the buildings around it work thousands of good people. We are all privileged to work with a whole host of people who get too little recognition, from the person recording my words, to the people who put them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD while we sleep—not always easy tasks, in my case.

Ours, too, is not always an easy task. I know it is hard for the public to understand the reality of life in the Congress, but the continual travel, the campaigns, and the unpredictable hours of our jobs can take a toll on our families. I have been blessed with two wonderful children, Laura and Leonard, who are here with me today, and a feisty, funny, and an incredibly strong wife, Liz. They have had to put up with an awful lot over the years so that I could serve Vermont.

Three decades is a blink of an eye in history, but what a tremendous period of change in our country we have been through. When I came to Washington, we were only three decades removed from the Second World War. My childhood heroes were heroes of that war, and it seemed as though every family had a father or son or uncle who served and sacrificed in that war. But when I came to Washington, an entirely different war was being waged in Southeast Asia. Vietnam has colored much of our thinking since. Whether Vietnam had too much or too little influence upon the ensuing three decades is a much larger debate, but we would be better served in world affairs today by being less haughty and more humble.

I regret that my departure from Congress, like my arrival, finds our country at war. Young and even not so young Americans are sacrificing life and limb while the rest of us are making little or no sacrifice. It seems to me the very least we should do is pay today for the fiscal costs of our policies. Instead, we are floating IOUs written on our children's future. This year we have no budget, and we are unwilling even to debate most of our basic spending bills before the November election. Thirty years from now, we could well face the biggest crisis in government since the Civil War, if Congress and the White House do not adopt a more honest approach to government.

The basic compact between generations is being broken. F.D.R. was right to borrow heavily to finance World War II, but are we justified in doing so today?

Earlier this month, I was privileged to attend the dedication of a monument in Virginia commemorating the sacrifice of more than 1,200 men of the Vermont Brigade during the battle of the wilderness. The tangled thickets of the 19th century have given way to mature forests. The individuals are largely forgotten, but our collective memory must endure. Today, we use blocks of granite to remind us of the sacrifices of the Civil War. In its immediate aftermath you would think no such reminder would have been needed. But 140 years ago, so the story goes, a northern Congressman literally waved a bloody shirt before his colleagues to inflame them against the South for alleged misdeeds. True patriotism is the incredible bravery of those men whose too-brief lives ended on that wilderness battlefield. Waving the bloody shirt then or today is anything but patriotic.

The beautiful Capitol dome above us, completed even as the Civil War concluded, should serve to inspire us. I am an optimist and have been every day of my life. With Lincoln, I hope that the mystic cords of memory will stretch from every battlefield and patriot grave to the hearts of the living, and that we will soon again be touched by the better angels of our nature.

Mr. President, I wish you and all of my colleagues good luck and Godspeed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator JEFFORDS has been a friend and colleague for many years. We had the opportunity to serve together in the House of Representatives. We served together in the Senate. To say that he has made history during his time in Congress is an understatement. But more important, he has made a difference. I have always been impressed by his knowledge of the issues, his dedication to the public well-being, and the environment. I have had the good fortune of serving with him on the Environment and Public Works Committee. He is a stalwart. He is a true believer that the environment is in distress and things need to be done to change our environment.

He has worked to preserve the middle class and to provide for the safety of the American people in so many different ways. Senator JEFFORDS is a man of conscience. No one can question that. He grew up in Vermont where the Jeffords family first settled in the 18th century. His father was a longtime member of the Supreme Court. After JIM JEFFORDS graduated from Yale, he served in the Navy on active duty for 4 years. He served then in the Naval Reserve, retiring as a captain. Senator JEFFORDS studied law at Harvard—Yale and Harvard—which shows his intellect. He returned after having finished law school to Vermont to practice law. Shortly thereafter, he was elected to the Vermont State Senate and then attorney general. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1975 and served there until he came to the Senate in 1989.

In walking in here I grabbed a book that has a lot of definitions. I flipped to courage. Whatever definition you have of courage, you can pick one here going back to two centuries ago:

I love the man who can smile on trouble, who can gather strength from distress and grow brave by reflection. It is the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm and whose conscience has approved his conduct will pursue his principles unto death.

That really is JIM JEFFORDS, and that, Mr. President, is a quote from Thomas Payne. I have seen up close JIM JEFFORDS' courage. Everyone knows, as it has been written about in books, the conversations that Senator JEFFORDS and I had prior to Senator JEFFORDS deciding that he wanted to

change course and become an Independent. That was not an easy decision. It involved years of friendship, and it involved years of his being a member of two different legislative bodies on Capitol Hill.

Most of our discussions took place on the Senate floor as people were walking around, but we had conversations in private. I know firsthand, I repeat, of the courage of this man. I in my now long public career have been involved in a number of things that I will always remember, but I will never, ever remember anything more vividly than the Senator from Vermont, as a matter of principle and courage, changing not only his course but the course of this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have listened to my friend, JIM JEFFORDS, the Senator from Vermont speak here this morning. I couldn't help but think as I heard Senator JEFFORDS speak with wit and clarity, and you might say even some emotion, that JIM JEFFORDS, given the opportunity to make a speech—and many of us will do so on this Senate floor as we leave—did it being true to himself, with his own good nature, his own sense of history, and his own justifiable pride in what he has accomplished.

I have known JIM JEFFORDS from his days as a State senator in Rutland. I have known his wonderful wife, Liz Daley Jeffords. They are both dear friends of mine and my wife Marcel. Mrs. Jeffords was referred to as a great lady the other night by the anchor of our State's largest TV station. Some of us who have known JIM for years would say she gets that greatness for putting up with him for all these years. But we Vermonters found no difficulties in putting up with JIM JEFFORDS. He has been elected overwhelmingly to the offices he has held and he has done it with support from Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike. He has gotten these votes the old-fashioned way—he earned them.

We came here together 32 years ago. I like to talk about the Leahys coming to Vermont in the 1850s. JIM reminds me his family came to Vermont a century before. We both live in small towns in Vermont; we have had that sense of Vermont. He has never lost it. He has been a good friend.

His career highlights are legendary. Let me tell you why he is supported so. First and foremost, Senator JEFFORDS is known as an environmental champion. In Vermont, they say, If you scratch a Vermonter you scratch an environmentalist, no matter the party.

He has done it in the great tradition of Senator Bob Stafford. Senator Bob Stafford is also from the same county as JIM JEFFORDS—actually JIM grew up near him. He mentioned Bob today.

He carved out a legend on education and the environment when he was here. But then JIM JEFFORDS had done that as attorney general and as a State sen-

ator in our State. For the past three decades he has left his fingerprints on nearly every environmental law enacted, from the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act to the Superfund program to acid rain reduction.

In fact, when others in his position would be thinking about where are the papers going and how will we retire, just a matter of months ago he offered the boldest solution to combat global climate change this body has ever considered.

He has championed legislation to strengthen our Nation's education system and increase the opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

In 1975, as a brandnew Member of the House of Representatives, as he said, coming in with a neck brace—the walking wounded from an election where both of us ran in Vermont—he coauthored what would later be known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. It was strongly supported by his colleagues here in the Senate and before that in the House. It has provided equal access to education for millions of students with disabilities, students who otherwise would have been shunted aside and this country would not have had the value of their achievements.

As chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, he worked tirelessly on education, job training, and disability legislation. Most recently, his leadership in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee was essential to the passage of the highway bill. Of course, Vermont and the rest of the country will benefit from that.

I might say there has been no greater leader for Vermont's dairy industry than Senator JEFFORDS. In his work on the Northeast Dairy Compact and the milk programs, he has fought tough battles for Vermont dairies—and won. He actually knows as much about our dairy industry as most dairy farmers.

It is what he has done for future generations. All of us can talk about what we do here. It is what we leave for our children and our grandchildren that counts. Future generations of Vermonters will honor JIM's legacy when they see the work that he began as attorney general and continued throughout the Senate—helping to restore Lake Champlain to its brilliance, its magnificence; or witness the bald eagles abounding in the wilderness areas, thanks to JIM.

I applaud him for this statement as he takes leave of the Senate—although it seems this year we will never know when we leave. None of us are getting our final airplane reservations yet. But he has done it with his usual grace and good humor. I applaud him for that and I hope all of us when we come to leave, whenever that may be, will have the opportunity to show that same grace. He served Vermont well and, just as importantly, he served the Senate well.

After a long career I might violate the rules somewhat, addressing my

friend and colleague directly: For a long career, JEFF, you can leave with your head held high. You have served Vermont and your Nation proudly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise for the purpose of telling my colleagues that I am going to miss my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I will interrupt the good Senator. Because the minority controls the next 7 minutes, it is necessary to gain consent from the minority.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask consent the Senator from Iowa be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to tell the Senator from Vermont that I am going to miss him in the Senate and still consider him a friend. I hope to have a long relationship with him, even in his retirement. I am that Senator that JIM JEFFORDS, the Senator from Vermont, referred to as the one remaining Republican of the class of 1974. There were 17 of us. I think there were about 70 Democrats. It was a bad year for Republicans. You couldn't even put the word Republican on your literature. It was the year Nixon resigned.

There were only 140 of us in the House of Representatives at that time. I don't know whether Senator JEFFORDS felt this way, but I felt this way, that it was probably the end of the Republican Party. Well, I was wrong. He and I have been reelected to serve together, to serve our respective constituents.

I remember Senator JEFFORDS as an outstanding member of the Agriculture Committee in the House of Representatives the 6 years I served on that committee. Then there was a period of time where I was a Member of the Senate and he still stayed in the House of Representatives. Our friendship still held. But working together—you know how it is in Congress, the House and Senate; there is a Grand Canyon between us sometimes, and we don't communicate as much as we ought to. Consequently, it was like getting reacquainted with Senator JEFFORDS again when he came to the Senate. I was glad then and I am very glad now that he continued his service.

I think he is an outstanding example of probably what is an unacknowledged principle of political science—at least it is a feeling I have about the people of our country—that if you serve honorably where you are at a certain time and do the best job possible, you are going to have opportunities to enhance your position within public service. So as a State senator, then as an attorney general, then as a Congressman, and then as a Senator for the people of Vermont, I believe he got to be a Senator because people in Vermont recognized him, as a State senator, as a Congressman, and as an attorney general,

as a person who was not there because of political ambition, wanting to rise to the top, but a person, in each stage of his public service life, who did what that job required and did it well. People recognized that and in the end of the process, he came to the Senate.

In every relationship I have had with Senator JEFFORDS, whether he was Republican or an Independent, it has always been one that has been friendly and honorable and honest, and, most importantly, to describe him as a humanitarian as he approached public policy.

It seemed to me that as a Member of the Senate, whether as an Independent or as a Republican, Senator JEFFORDS brought forth what it takes to get things done in the Senate, and that is moderation. It doesn't matter whether it is a bill that is representing the philosophy of the extreme left or a bill that represents the philosophy of the extreme right, nothing such as that is going to get through the Senate. Eventually you have to have people come together seeking a middle ground, a bipartisan approach to get things done. It seems to me, in every respect, that is what Senator JEFFORDS did—he sought moderation because that is how you get solutions and that is the only way the Senate produces.

I compliment him on his dedicated public service. I congratulate him on his long service to the people of the United States and the people of Vermont. I will miss working with him. I will miss him, but I hope we have opportunities to have great relationships for the rest of our lives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, could I inquire of the Chair, do we have a limited period of time? I see a number of our colleagues here. I am just inquiring of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 7 minutes 20 seconds remaining in this block of time for the minority.

Mr. KENNEDY. Well, I see the floor leader. I will take 2 or 3 minutes, then, because I see half a dozen of our friends here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I believe there are at least four or five Members here who would like to speak about Senator JEFFORDS' retirement. I ask unanimous consent those Members currently on the floor, Senators ROCKEFELLER, BOXER, HARKIN, DODD and KENNEDY, be recognized for such time as they consume, and I would like to add myself to that list, and then extend whatever time we use on the minority side, if they would like to use it as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is entirely appropriate that we take these few moments on the floor of the Senate to listen carefully and take the meas-

ure of an extraordinary Senator, Senator JIM JEFFORDS. In these next several weeks, this Nation is going to be focused in many, many States on trying to select who is going to represent them in the Senate. And if the people of those States just took a few moments to listen to the eloquence of this Senator, they would know what the standard should be in selecting someone to represent them in this body. It is JIM JEFFORDS. He sets the standard. So we thank JIM JEFFORDS for his service—his service to the State of Vermont and his service to all of our States and to the country. We thank him for that service.

We also thank the people of Vermont for their wisdom in selecting this extraordinary talent and giving him the kind of support that they gave over a long and distinguished career, especially in those times when he was willing to take positions and stand up on issues as a matter of conscience. They understood their native son. They respected him, and they supported him. So thank you to the voters of Vermont.

Thank you to his family, Elizabeth that Senator JEFFORDS mentioned, Laura, and Leonard—a family that gave him great support. I think those of us who have been fortunate enough to know that family and meet that family understand what a strong influence it has been in terms of his service.

And thank you, Senator JEFFORDS, for that simple eloquence that we heard from you today on the floor of the Senate, going back into the history of our country, providing inspiration as we listen to you talk about the history of the Nation, mentioning with great pride the role of Vermonters in the time of the Civil War—and his understanding of history, talking about the Greatest Generation, which were inspiring figures to him and many of us continuing to the present.

He typically understated his own achievements and accomplishments. I think many of us on this floor are well familiar with them. I certainly am as someone who has had the good opportunity to serve with him on the Education Committee. I know the difference that he has made in the education of children in this country, particularly those with special needs, accomplishments which are memorable and historical. He mentioned just casually his interest in the education of the children here in the District of Columbia. A number of us who are here on the floor now remember JIM JEFFORDS speaking in our caucus not many years ago how that we, as members of the Senate who happen to either live here in the District or work here, even though we are working in this body, have a responsibility for the education of the children here. He was the inspiration of a program, a literacy program called "Everybody Wins!" And JIM JEFFORDS led a number of us to Brent School here near the Capitol to read with the second and third graders each week to ensure that those children

were going to have an opportunity to learn to read. It was just a simple illustration, once again, that JIM JEFFORDS does not just talk the talk, he walks the walk. And on so many different times, he has been there doing just that.

So, JIM, we admire your service. You have demonstrated here—and we do not understand perhaps well enough—that you can speak with a quiet and soft voice, but you speak with a great passion and a compelling argument, and with a simplicity and effectiveness that has enriched and enhanced the quality of life and opportunity, particularly for children but also for all Americans. It is a distinguished career, and it is one I know that you should be—and are—proud of. All of us have had our own lives enriched and inspired because of our friendship with you and the type of Senator you have been.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I add my voice to my colleagues who have spoken and those who will speak in thanking our wonderful friend from Vermont for his remarkable service to our country.

I begin as well by thanking his family, Elizabeth and the children, as well as the people of Vermont, as Senator KENNEDY has said so eloquently.

Let me also include in enumeration his wonderful staff people, over the years, who have been very much a part of JIM's family. In fact, I note from the interns to senior staff people, everyone refers to him not as "Senator" or "Mr. Chairman"—but just "JIM." That is certainly a symbol of the kind of relationship he has had with his constituents and with his family over the years.

I have had the privilege of serving my entire time in the Senate—in the Congress—with this remarkable person from Vermont. We arrived in the House of Representatives on the very same day, 32 years ago. As JIM pointed out, he had that neck brace on, and I had a head of black hair. We have aged over those 3 decades. But my respect for JIM JEFFORDS has only grown.

He has taught us America will listen to you even if your voice is soft. His achievements in the Senate and the House are the envy of all who wish to improve a quality of life in this great country of ours. JIM's body of work is truly admirable.

But it looks even more admirable when you remind yourself that it was all the doing of a man unpretentious enough to be fond of mismatched socks, frugal enough to spend his earliest days in Washington sleeping in a parked van, and humble enough to be universally known, as I've said, as just "JIM." The people of Vermont returned him to office over and over again on the strength of his plainspoken integrity and his indefatigable Yankeeanness. That's what JIM brought to this body of discussion; and that was more than enough.

JIM came to Washington knowing what he wanted to accomplish, and his success is clear to us today. No one has worked with more dedication for a clean environment. JIM was an environmentalist practically before we had a word for it. In fact, he got his start in the Vermont State Senate in the 1960s, fighting the efforts of the paper mills to pour sludge right into Lake Champlain. He was a long-time nuclear watchdog and among six Congressmen to found the Congressional Solar Coalition years ago. It is telling that when he had his pick of chairmanships, Senator JIM JEFFORDS chose the Environment and Public Works Committee. Perhaps most importantly, he helped clean up the air we breathe. He mentioned it briefly. But the work of John Chafee, George Mitchell, and JIM JEFFORDS truly created the great Clean Air Act of 1990, a huge accomplishment. I want to thank JIM immensely for the tremendous effort he made years ago in improving the quality of air in this country. If he had done nothing else in 32 years, that alone would have been a significant achievement. Of course, his body of work is far more than that.

Like JIM's dedication to the environment, his work for children who come from special education needs is decades long. In 1976, he was essential to the passage of legislation guaranteeing local school districts that the Federal Government would pay 40 percent of the costs of educating the disabled. And if that guarantee remains unfunded today, never let it be said that it was for lack of JIM's passionate work.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention of TOM HARKIN, another fellow classmate of 1974, working with JIM and many others who cared about this issue over the years. No one contributed more to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act than JIM JEFFORDS. Few Senators are as tied to special education, and that is a title to be very proud of. It has been my honor to work along with him in the House and the Senate on the issues that meant the most to him—on afterschool programs, on higher education, and, most especially, to secure funding for IDEA.

It Vermont, commitment to education is a longstanding tradition. Right in the middle of the Civil War, we building the dome on the Capitol to show our determination to keep this Union together; but we showed it in another way, too. A Senator from Vermont by the name of Justin Smith Morrill created the land grant colleges—the University of Connecticut is one; there are many all across the country—and his work was one more demonstration of the remarkable people who come from that State of Vermont to help build this country, defend this country, and secure this country for our children. Senator Stafford and Morrill passed on that proud tradition, and Senator JEFFORDS stands in its forefront today.

JIM has taught at every opportunity the difference between education as a

privilege and education as a right. It is a right, and its worth is measured in our willingness to educate even—especially—where it is inconvenient.

There weren't many Senators shyer than JIM JEFFORDS, but there wasn't a single one fuller of quiet purpose and courage. Politics was always a means to JIM's purpose—never the other way around. And the way JIM practiced politics, the way he spent his power, was never calculated to bring him money, or fame, or even particularly glamour. It was only the quiet satisfaction of a job very well done.

That is what I think of when I recall the more than three decades of our service together. But, to tell the truth, through all those 30 years I had a privileged seat right here with him. Those without that vantage point are probably going to remember, first of all, something very different. We all know how JIM crossed this aisle for good 5 years ago, and how he has served as an Independent ever since. JIM entered the national spotlight full of honest regret, and fully aware of how difficult his choice was for colleagues, his staff, and his supporters.

I saw JIM upclose as he struggled with a decision as few men or women ever have to. But whatever one thinks of it, there is a fact beyond dispute, which all of us appreciate in this body: JIM JEFFORDS has never followed anyone but his conscience.

If we insist, 5 years later, on reasoning out the need in votes or dollars or any other measure of practicality, we only reveal our failure to understand what that man did on the day he made his choice. Sometimes what goes on in this Chamber cannot be reasoned away. JIM taught us that, too.

So, I would like to close with a happy thought. Two years before the American Revolution, Edmund Burke gave a speech on the relationship between a representative and those whom he tries to represent.

"It is his duty," said Burke, "to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures, his satisfactions, to theirs; and above all, ever, and in all cases, to prefer their interests to his own. But his unbiased opinion, his mature judgment, his enlightened conscience, he ought not to sacrifice to you, to any man, or to any set of men living. These he does not derive from your pleasure; no, nor from the law and the constitution. They are a trust from Providence."

JIM, you have kept your trust over these many years, in both the Senate and public life, in your State and in the Congress. We send you back to Vermont with your work in the Senate accomplished, with your conscience still clean, and with our best wishes to you and your lovely family. God bless you.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it took an act of courage for JIM JEFFORDS to declare himself an Independent. It took an act of courage for a lifelong Red Sox fan to quote a New York Yankee in his farewell address to the Senate.

JIM JEFFORDS is an extraordinary public servant. Fewer than 2,000 men and women in the history of the United States of America have served in the Senate. We all understand the great privilege of being in this body representing our great States. But people are not noted in the history of the Senate for longevity alone. People are noted for singular acts of courage. And when it comes to JIM JEFFORDS, his public career has been a singular act of courage.

I hail from the State of Abraham Lincoln, where he lived most of his adult life, and where we claimed him as part of our national heritage. When I think of JIM JEFFORDS and the political party he identifies with more than any other name, I will say he identifies with the party of that great leader Abraham Lincoln who stood up for principles often against public and popular will.

This last week, Time Magazine noted they were going to designate Senator JIM JEFFORDS of Vermont as "Person of the Week." They said in his one principled decision to become an Independent, "He demonstrated to the White House and the United States Senate that revolutionaries often come in surprising packages."

We all know what happened after JIM made his decision to become an Independent. He told me about walking home to his apartment at night down Pennsylvania Avenue. And people who were outside restaurants and cafes would stop and stand and start to applaud, and JIM would be startled by it at first. But he received more recognition then he, I am sure, expected. A lot of it came in positive terms; some in negative terms. People wanted to name their babies after him.

In Burlington, VT—I think this is probably the greatest tribute a politician could ever expect—they named a beer after him—"Jeezum Jim" they called it. I hope it was a popular brew because he has been a popular Senator.

When they asked him why he changed his affiliation to become an Independent, he replied very simply: "It is all about education." I remember it well, because I know that was the deciding factor.

Your commitment to particularly those students who struggled with disabilities, students who have these difficulties, your commitment to those kids led you to this decision. Many of us make these decisions on votes on the floor. But as has been said, for JIM JEFFORDS education went way beyond a vote or a speech. Several years ago, he established this tutoring program in Washington, DC, encouraging us, as Members of Congress, the House and the Senate, to walk just a few blocks from here, as he did so many times, to tutor the inner-city youth of Washington, DC.

He is a true Vermonter and a true Independent. When we look at his record, he was the only House Republican who voted against the Reagan tax

cut because he was afraid it would lead to dangerous deficits. How right he was. In 1993, he was the only Republican Senator to cosponsor President Clinton's health care plan. He worked for years for regulation of tobacco by the Food and Drug Administration, a goal which I share with the Senator. And he sponsored the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, banning employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Some politicians in their career find ways to divide us. JIM JEFFORDS always looked for ways to bring us together. A strong supporter of Federal funding for AIDS research and the arts, justifiably proud of the role he played in passing the Work Incentives Improvement Act, and, of course, his record on the environment is without parallel.

I know historians will also record all these accomplishments and courageous battles when they write about JIM JEFFORDS. On July 4, 2001, several weeks after he made his decision to become an Independent, he sat down at his home in Vermont and wrote these words:

I hope my decision will move the two parties to the center, where the American people are. The American people want an active, responsible, Federal Government.

He went on to say:

There seems to be a hunger in country for heroes, especially for the political variety.

Not only with this one historic act of conscience but throughout his career in the House and the Senate, in public life JIM JEFFORDS has been a living example of these hopes and beliefs. I am proud to have been able to serve with him. I am proud to count him as one of my colleagues, even prouder to count him as a friend.

I thank his family for giving him this opportunity to serve and giving this wonderful man to public life.

I thank you, JIM JEFFORDS, for all you have meant.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it is, indeed, a privilege to be here this morning to personally hear the words of our good friend, Senator JEFFORDS, and to hear other Senators get up and talk about JIM in such glowing terms.

However, I must say that all the years I have known JIM JEFFORDS, he is an old-fashioned New Englander, which means he is very modest. That means he is embarrassed to receive this kind of praise and adulation. Senator JEFFORDS will just have to endure it because we love you, we respect you, we admire you, and you are one of the most beloved Members of the Senate.

Thirty-two years ago, we came together in the House. You talked about that. Our colleague, CHRIS DODD, was in that class, and also my colleague from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY. I didn't know Senator JEFFORDS at that time, obviously. We had just come in as freshmen Members. I found myself on the Committee on Agriculture with Senator JEFFORDS. We both sat down at the

end. He was on one side and I was on the other side because we were just freshmen.

We had a farm bill coming up. After a few weeks on the Agriculture Committee, we dubbed Senator JEFFORDS "the Senator from Dairy." He was tenacious in fighting for his dairy farmers of Vermont and, of course, New England. Those from Iowa and Minnesota and Wisconsin—we had dairy farmers, too, and there was, shall I say, a little bit of a conflict in how we viewed the world of milk and dairy. That was my first experience with Senator JEFFORDS because we had to work things out. And we did. That was the first time I got to see the kind of person JIM JEFFORDS is and always has been. He was tenacious in fighting for his dairy farmers but willing to understand that we all have to live together; somehow we have to seek our compromises. And we did. We reached a compromise and we moved the legislation forward. That was the first time I came to really know and respect JIM JEFFORDS.

As we moved ahead in agriculture, I found another area in which I respected and admired Senator JEFFORDS. That was the area of environment and conservation. In those days, people were thinking mostly about all the commodity programs, how much money we could get in the commodity programs. We were all protecting our interests. I was protecting my Iowa interests and Senator JEFFORDS was protecting his Vermont interests.

However, conservation transcended everything. That began back in the late 1970s, in the House Agriculture Committee. We began the move toward more conservation in our farm bills, which led to more of a "greening" of America. He did that work also on Environment and Public Works. When I think about the environment, cleaning up the environment—clean water, clean lakes, clean streams—I have to think of JIM JEFFORDS. He was there at the beginning.

Then in 1975, on the Committee on Education, JIM JEFFORDS coauthored what later became the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. I was not on the Committee on Education, but because of my family and because of my intense interest in disability rights, especially as it pertained to the hard-of-hearing and the deaf, I learned about this bill with JIM JEFFORDS and with Paul Simon—at that time, Senator Simon—and sort of stuck my nose in their business, if you don't mind my saying that, because I was not on the committee. I talked about how we had to help do some of these things. My focus was narrow at that time, just in hard-of-hearing and deafness at that time. My great respect for Senator JEFFORDS, or JIM, at that time grew because he was focused on how we make sure every kid in America gets an education, make sure kids with disabilities were mainstream, make sure they got the support in our schools.

It was Senator JEFFORDS who made sure that in the bill we passed, the Federal Government committed itself to providing at least 40 percent of the additional costs to States and local communities in educating kids with disabilities. Forty percent was the goal we set in the bill Senator JEFFORDS coauthored in 1975.

That moves me up to the year 2001. In the year 2001, the budget came from the White House, President Bush's budget, which severely underfunded our commitment to increasing funding. We have never reached 40 percent. I think the highest we have been is 18 percent. We have never gotten the 40 percent. Senator JEFFORDS wanted to move that up. Yet the budget came down and had a severe cut in the funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. That is when Senator JEFFORDS said no, he wanted to make sure that money was in there. That happened, mostly, on the Republican side of the aisle. I was not privy to all of that. That is when Senator JEFFORDS made his declaration of independence. A matter of conscience—he could not turn his back on all these years of moving our society forward to educating kids with disabilities in our schools and then all of a sudden say: No, we are going to turn the clock back; we are not going to do it. He wanted to keep moving forward. The budget would not allow it; he fought hard for it. Based upon the fact that the administration would not move on that, he declared his independence and became an Independent and left his party. We can all imagine how wrenching that must be, to leave the party that nurtured us, that we grew up with, that supported us all our adult life. It is a matter of conscience. You can read about it in his book, "My Declaration of Independence."

After that, I invited Senator JEFFORDS to come out to speak at the steak fry I have in Iowa every year. It was after the book came out. I will never forget the scene. We had thousands of people. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon. Thousands of people came to meet this person, to hear him and to hear his message. They had all these little books they were waiving, "My Declaration of Independence."

He had a wonderful message. His message was: don't ever turn our back on making sure every child in America has a decent education. It was a simple, straightforward message. But you should read his book.

Senator KENNEDY mentioned another thing about Senator JEFFORDS that not too many people know about; that is, his support for a program called "Everybody Wins." He brought it here to Washington in the late 1990s and then began badgering us to participate in it in his usual tenacious manner. So he got a lot of us hooked on it.

It is every Tuesday. I see Senator KENNEDY goes about every Tuesday; JIM, of course, goes all the time; I go

every Tuesday we are here, and a lot of staff members. We go to Brent Elementary School. We read to a child for 1 hour every Tuesday. It has been a wonderful experience for me and I know for everyone who participates in it. In fact, we now talk about JIM as being sort of the Johnny Appleseed of this movement because now it is starting in other States. We took the idea to Iowa, and now it is sprouting in Iowa. Other States and businesses are involved. "Everybody Wins" is now moving around the country. Senator JEFFORDS said: Senator JEFFORDS doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the walk. When he brought it here, he was there every week reading to kids and getting us to go down and read to them, also.

I have in my office a big picture that is my favorite picture. It is a big picture taken at Tiananmen Square, a picture we all will remember of the young man holding a little briefcase, a young student holding a briefcase. There is a line of tanks. He is standing in front of the tanks, and the tanks have all stopped. To those of us who have seen the video of this, the tanks were coming down the street, the student went out in the street, he stopped, the tanks turned to go one direction and he moved over a few steps, then the tanks moved another direction to get around, and he moved over and stood there. Finally, the tanks stopped right in front of him. A hatch popped open, and a military guy got out and looked at him and stood there for a few minutes. The tanks all stopped, and then the young man turned and walked off the street.

A lot of people I talk to about that picture—did they ever know who he was? No, they never did find out his name. But I gave them the name. I call him JIM JEFFORDS. To me, that young man who did that represents the JIM JEFFORDS of the world, willing to stand on principle no matter what the odds are. No matter what is coming at them, they are willing to stand on principle.

So after 32 years, we will miss this soft-spoken and self-effacing New Englander who has a spine of steel. After 32 years, Senator JEFFORDS, you have left your mark: education, job training, disability rights, the environment and, lest we forget, the dairy farmers of New England, who will never forget JIM JEFFORDS.

JIM, we are going to miss you, your kindness, your leadership, your courage, your generosity of spirit, and your example. Know that our love, our admiration, our respect, and our best wishes go with you and with Elizabeth and your family. Know that you have left on our Nation and the world a mark for all of us to follow in how to make our Nation and our world a better place.

Senator JEFFORDS, JIM, Godspeed. Come back now and then. Come back on the floor. Retired Senators have the privilege of coming to the floor. Come back on the floor and remind us why we are here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, this is a very poignant morning for so many. I am so glad I have been able to arrange my schedule to be here to listen to my colleagues and friends, whom I deeply respect, and to listen to the great Senator from Vermont, JIM JEFFORDS.

If I might say how blessed I have been, I got here in 1993 and went right to the Environment and Public Works Committee. I met JIM there, and now I get to sit next to him in the Senate. I got to know his staff.

We are going to miss you. But, JIM, I must say, you made a beautiful speech today. And in listening to TOM HARKIN talk about you and explain that you have always been motivated by what is right for the people, if ever you could take an opportunity to tout your accomplishments, it is when you say goodbye. People would say that is fair. But you did not do that. You did not say: This year I passed this legislation and this bill. The rest of us have been lauding your accomplishments, but it is just like you, instead, to talk about this country you love so much. And you cite to us what our challenges are. And, of course, they continue to be the challenges you have taken up: education, the environment, fiscal responsibility, war and peace. You have left a roadmap for us, and for that we are very grateful.

I mentioned that I was sworn in in 1993. That was the so-called year of the women, where we tripled the number of women in the Senate. That sounds great, but it was from two to six. We were still a very strong minority. Our leader, BARBARA MIKULSKI, the dean of the women here, always taught us, from day one—she said: You are going to have to work with the men because they control things here, and you are going to find that among these many men there are many Sir Galahads.

JIM, you are Sir Galahad. You have been a wonderful friend to us, treating us, from the minute we walked in, as equals and colleagues. We are very grateful to you for that.

I am not going to talk a long time at all. But I want to talk about three things quickly. One is, I went to your State of Vermont this last weekend. I had been there before and always marveled at how beautiful it is, but I was taken with it again.

Now, coming from California, we have our beautiful places, believe me. So I have come to appreciate beautiful places. We overlooked Lake Champlain when we were there. Knowing that you worked so hard to make that lake clean and beautiful, thank you for that. There is so much history there, JIM, that you have also helped to preserve—you and Patrick Leahy, and so many others who came before.

But what struck me about Vermont as much as the beauty is the incredible people in your State, how involved they are. It is that old New England

townhall type of quality. They get it. They are involved. They love you, JIM. They love you. When I mentioned your name, oh, my goodness, the roars came up. You could hear it blocks away.

People love you here and they love you in Vermont. And your family loves you. As you said, you are blessed, as we are blessed in your presence.

The second point is your family and how much they care about you. They are so proud of you. I know how hard it was for them when you declared your independence. It rocked their world, just as it rocked your world, and just as it rocked the country. But when you do something for the right reasons, it all works out. And you did something for the right reasons, for the people of this country.

The last thing I want to say to you is, we do not know how things will work out this November, but either way, I will be taking a larger role on the committee you love, the Environment and Public Works Committee, where you have been an extraordinary leader. You have given us a roadmap on how to fight global warming—a huge challenge we face. We cannot turn away from it because if we do, we are neglecting our responsibility. You, thank goodness, have written a bill that will show us the way.

So I am here today not only to wish you well in your retirement, and joy with your family, but to tell you that I am going to follow your leadership on global warming. I am excited about the challenge. And because of the love your colleagues feel for you, I hope you will come back here, as TOM HARKIN said, to help me with that because we are going to have to move and get going on it.

Mr. President, thank you very much. And thanks to our colleagues for giving us this time we need to pay tribute to an extraordinary Senator, one who will be missed but never forgotten.

Thank you very much. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I have to start off anything I say—and I will be short—about JIM JEFFORDS with the word "friendship," based upon his unbelievable qualities of kindness, of goodness, of steadfastness, being the same person every day under any circumstance.

We sit together. We have sat together for quite a long time on the floor of the Senate. And we talk a lot. I have the honor of talking with his staff, too, a superb staff, who adores him.

The business of friendship in the Senate is underpracticed. If you know JIM JEFFORDS, then you know why you should take more time to know your colleagues better. Because the fact is—although it has been more so recently—it is not your politics or your party that determines how you vote, but your conscience and your sense of a moral compass that guides you. In that practice, you have to think of JIM JEFFORDS.

He is an extraordinarily wonderful human being. He has got a ferocious sense of humor, which is always delivered very quietly. And yet he is deep, he is profound, he sort of looks like Vermont: chiseled; his nose is just the right shape. And, of course, he talks that way. But he is humble, not because he wants to be, just because he is. Nothing about his record is humble. But his nature is humble. He is gentle; and he really is. He listens, does not interrupt, does not insist on his point of view—except when it counts, and then he is unmovable.

All of the subjects he has concentrated on—children, the environment, many other things that have been mentioned—there is also the matter of post-traumatic stress disorder. On the Veterans Committee, which is the one committee where I do get to—not the only committee, but I get to sit with him on that committee—he has been a champion of something which Americans still do not really understand; and that is, the ferocious nature of being wounded in war these days—an Iraqi improvised explosive device that implants shards of metal into people that will remain there for the rest of their lives; the whole question of How does somebody rehabilitate a life? and What is the VA doing about that? JIM is all over that subject.

When he switched parties to be an Independent, woe be the person who said: Switch parties from Republican to Democrat—no—Republican to Independent. And, yes, he got an enormous amount of cheering and praise based upon his moral compass. He also got a lot of death threats. Life was very hard for him for a period of time. So he understood that was going to happen. But with JIM JEFFORDS, the moral compass always prevails. I think it is one of the reasons all of us here respect him so, admire him so, look to him as to what the Senate ought to be.

I had never heard the word “ANWR” until it was explained to me by Senator JEFFORDS. He was there early because he was thinking, as always, of our children and grandchildren, and, as they say, their children too. We always take it one generation too far, but it is true.

Alternative fuels. Will the history books write about JIM JEFFORDS on alternative fuels? Yes, they will. Do people generally in the Senate or elsewhere know that he has spent a career working on that? Probably not.

Our air; they know about that. The groundwater; they probably know about that. But his work on alternative fuels is one of the most important things he's done.

The Title I, Head Start, improving the lives of children, all of that that has been talked about—Senator HARKIN talked about, in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—he has always been looking ahead. Does that make him a Good Samaritan? Does that mean he is a do-gooder or does it mean that he does good? It is the second. He does what is com-

fortable to him and what he feels is just for the people he serves, not only in Vermont but across the United States of America.

The work he has done with post-traumatic stress disorder is awesome in terms of those of us on the Veterans Committee. He is justifiably proud of the research and work done by Vermont's White River Junction Veterans' Administration Hospital to help veterans who are struggling, as they truly are, not just with the postwar physical problems of being wounded, but the psychological problems of that, as well.

He has never sought the limelight, and he does not care about the limelight. He has been elected time after time probably partly because of that. Because he is not like so many other people who run for public office who want to tick off everything they have done. He is JIM JEFFORDS. And with JIM JEFFORDS comes a certain set of principles, a certain set of commitments to people. The people of Vermont have understood that over the years. So he has not had to promote himself in ways that others have to do.

He has always done his work, in the words of Shakespeare, with the “modest stillness and humility” that becomes any human being. When you look back at his record, you can see this man from Shrewsbury, VT, has left his mark on virtually every single piece of legislation on education, job training, disability legislation, and on and on and on.

JIM has always had extraordinarily deep passions and convictions, but, at the same time, he has been a paragon of civility and humbleness. JIM has a gentle voice, but his resolve and commitment to stand up for vulnerable children, veterans in need, and our environment is assertive and strong.

Throughout his career, JIM has made some very tough personal decisions. Take his decision to switch parties to be an independent in the summer of 2001. Regardless which party you are a member of, I think all of us would agree that given the fact that his move fundamentally changed the governing structure of the Senate, it truly was a profile in courage. Time and time again, JIM has been willing to take risks for his beliefs, and he deserves our respect and admiration for such independence.

In terms of public service, JIM JEFFORDS has lived a life that many aspire to. He has spent nearly every day of his life working to make the lives of people better. In the 1950s, he served in the U.S. Navy, and until 1990 he was in the Naval Reserve, where he retired as a captain. In the 1960s, he began his political service, first as a Vermont State Senator, then as Vermont's Attorney General, and then, in the wake of the Watergate scandal, he became one of the very few Republicans elected to Congress in 1974.

JIM has been a true steward of the environment. Long before many of us

knew what ANWR was, he was fighting to preserve the environment for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. He has been at the forefront of fighting to make sure our air and ground water are safe for our citizens, and he has fought for the use of alternative fuels. His efforts have truly cut a trailblazing path for many generations to come.

Over the years, JIM and I have worked on many issues together, and I am particularly proud of what we have done for our students and for our veterans. He understands how important it is to make sure that our citizens get started on the right foot. He believes that the first years of a child's life are absolutely critical in the life and future of that person, and that is why he has worked so hard to push for greater funding for Head Start and other early education programs. And that is why he has worked on Title I—to help low-performing students, who disproportionately live in the rural areas that make up much of West Virginia and Vermont, achieve the standards they must meet.

That sort of Good Samaritan principle has always guided JIM's life and career. He has been extraordinary in advocating for those whose needs are often forgotten. In fact, perhaps no American living today and certainly no American legislator—I want to echo here what Senator HARKIN has said—has done more to advance the educational success of those with disabilities. Almost from his arrival in Congress, JIM took extraordinary steps because he believed that the needs of others simply could not wait. In 1975, as a House freshman, JIM co-authored what would later be known as the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. IDEA serves as a Federal commitment to give students with disabilities a better education.

It was an extraordinary legislative achievement, one that had even greater implications in terms of setting a moral baseline imperative that we must meet the needs of those who live difficult lives. JIM has worked, not for the well-heeled or the heavy-hitting lobbyist—he has tirelessly worked for the people who truly need help.

I have also been proud to serve with JIM on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. He has been an important voice in calling for compassionate care for our veterans, especially those veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

We both have States with a very high number of soldiers and veterans, and we both know how important it is for our soldiers and veterans to have the health care they have earned and deserve. The two of us have been allies in pushing for greater funding and resources to help our soldiers with PTSD, and I know that JIM is justifiably proud of the research and work by Vermont's White River Junction to help veterans struggling with PTSD.

JIM JEFFORDS has never sought the limelight—he has sought results. He

has always done his work in the words of Shakespeare, with the modest stillness and humility that becomes any human. But when one looks back at his record, you can see that the modest man from Shrewsbury, VT, has left his mark on virtually every piece of education, job training, and disability legislation over the past quarter century. It is difficult to determine how many people JIM's efforts have helped, but if it were possible to quantify his efforts, I know we would find that hundreds of thousands of lives have been improved because of his actions in Vermont and across the country.

The Senate this year is losing a treasure, a man who in the best tradition of the Senate has never been afraid of taking heroic, principled stand without having to make a lot of noise. Sharon and I are personally losing good friends in JIM and his wife Liz. And Americans all over the country are losing one of the most dedicated fighters for the basic rights that too many disadvantaged people are short-changed on. I wish my friend well in his retirement.

I close with the sadness of losing in our body somebody such as Senator JEFFORDS. People go to him. People are comforted by his presence. People are emboldened by his nature. They see what it is he does not say to promote himself or his ideas, and somehow they are attracted to those ideas because they understand if it comes out of JIM JEFFORDS, it is good for the public.

So I think of his family too, I say to Senator BOXER, and I think of how proud they must be. I also think of just myself, to be honest, how sad I am going to be not being able to sit next to JIM JEFFORDS and share his humor and to look upon his greatness—not just his nose, but his greatness: the classic Vermonter, the classic New Englander. He has been so incredibly good for the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the extraordinary career of Senator JIM JEFFORDS.

For the past 32 years, JIM JEFFORDS has served the citizens of Vermont and the American people with integrity, intellectual honesty, and diligence. When faced with the choice between political convenience or protecting the interests of his constituents, JIM JEFFORDS always stood for Vermont and the concerns of hard-working Americans. When others decided to do what was popular in Washington or among the chattering classes, JIM remained true to his values. He has been a model of principled leadership, often ahead of his time.

Long before protecting our environment and precious natural resources occupied America's consciousness, JIM was leading on these issues. Working across party lines throughout his career, including as chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, JIM JEFFORDS urged the President to strengthen antipollution

measures, investigated the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, and promoted increased fuel efficiency. During his time in the U.S. Senate he introduced the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act, the High-Performance Green Buildings Act, and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Investment Act.

JIM JEFFORDS has never lost sight of his constituents and their needs. He loyally stood by farmers in Vermont and all over the Nation when he fought President Bush's dairy tax, extended the Milk Income Loss Contracts—MILC—program, and supported the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act.

JIM JEFFORDS has also committed his career to improving education, which he has treated as one of the great callings of our time. Speaking at a Rally for Education in 2002, JIM JEFFORDS said of education funding that "it is not an option, it is a necessity, for our children, for our schools and for the future of our great Nation." JIM JEFFORDS championed the Head Start Program, increased funding for elementary, secondary, and higher education, and sponsored the Better Education for Students and Teachers Act. He has also provided unwavering support to American children with disabilities that face a unique set of challenges in navigating our education system. Even as a freshman Congressman some 30 years ago, JIM JEFFORDS managed to marshal his colleagues in order to pass the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Senator JEFFORDS and his capable staff. His office and his standards of professionalism inspire great respect.

On a personal level, I continue to admire a public servant that has so consistently followed his conscience. Time magazine recognized JIM JEFFORDS as the "Person of the Week" for his "revolutionary" party switch in 2001. I do not believe that JIM necessarily set out to start a revolution; rather he invoked what might be considered a revolutionary idea to some in Washington: government ought to serve the concerns and interests of ordinary Americans instead of catering to fringe groups or election year antics. In hindsight, most will hail JIM JEFFORDS' principled decision to switch parties, though I know the decision was a difficult one for him and strained his relationship with many in this body. But JIM JEFFORDS did what he thought was right, and I applaud his courage and his example of leadership.

So I thank Senator JEFFORDS not only for his lifetime of service and accomplishments but for having raised the bar for all of us.

I wish JIM JEFFORDS and his family many happy years ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their very

generous and kind comments. Their remarks remind me—all of us—the Senate is a family. I also thank my colleagues for their friendship. I am honored to be able to serve with you, especially you, I say to Senator ROCKEFELLER.

You have been very kind to me over the years. I have followed your guidance, and it has been good. I thank all of my colleagues for their friendship and am honored to serve with you. And as I go forward—I don't know—I am going to wonder why I am going forward and not just staying with you.

Mr. President, now I guess we should proceed with the process that is normal. I thank the leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to advise the Senate that the Appropriations Committee has completed our work on the bill providing funds for the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense for the next fiscal year which begins on October 1.

Yesterday, the other body approved the Defense appropriations conference report, which provides new spending authority for the Department of Defense. Included in this bill is \$70 billion in additional appropriations to fund operations related to the global war on terror. I expect the majority leader will call up this conference report later today for approval by the Senate.

I commend the excellent leadership and hard work of the distinguished Senators from Alaska and Hawaii, the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and the ranking Democrat on that subcommittee, for putting together a bill that carefully considers the requests made by the administration for this massive undertaking of defending our country, identifying the challenges that we face, which threaten our security at home and abroad. It is a daunting task, but they have brought to this challenge a lot of experience, a lot of keen insight into the needs of our country, and the way the Department has to receive funding on a predictable and regular basis to achieve its goals and carry out its important mission.

It is also my hope that the Homeland Security conference report will soon be filed in the House. It includes \$34.8 billion in discretionary spending. It also reflects hard work by the conferees on that subcommittee, the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. GREGG, and the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, who were the chairman and ranking minority member of that subcommittee. Our conferees completed work on this bill, and we expect that it will be filed in the House, as I have suggested, I hope, very soon.